

MINUTES
BROWN COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COORDINATING COMMITTEE
Monday, March 8, 2010
Green Bay Metro Transportation Center
901 University Avenue
Green Bay, Wisconsin
9:45 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Sunny Archambault	<u>X</u>	Byia Martin	<u>X</u>
Diana Brown	<u>X</u>	Barbara Natelle*	<u>X</u>
Brandon Cooper	<u> </u>	Sandy Popp	<u>X</u>
Pat Finder-Stone	<u>X</u>	Cole Runge	<u>X</u>
Carl Graf	<u> </u>	Jayme Sellen	<u>X</u>
Matt Halada	<u> </u>	Julie Tetzlaff	<u> </u>
Chris Hasselbacher	<u>X</u>	Mary Van Acker	<u> </u>
Kathy Hillary	<u> </u>	Tina Whetung	<u>X</u>
Kathy Johnson*	<u>X</u>	John Withbroe	<u>X</u>
Nick Mahlik*	<u>X</u>	Vacant – BC Board	<u> </u>

OTHERS PRESENT: Lisa J. Conard, Steve Maricque, Sue Premo, Cathy Putman, and Brad Sauer. *Alternates: Mary Brick for Barb Natelle, Essie Fels for Kathy Johnson, and Steve Rosenbaum for Nick Mahlik.

C. Runge opened the meeting at 9:45 a.m.

C. Runge introduced Mr. John Withbroe as a new member of the TCC. John replaces Ms. Betty Bennett as liaison to the Green Bay Transit Commission.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Approval of the December 14, 2009, Transportation Coordinating Committee meeting minutes.

A motion was made by P. Finder-Stone, seconded by S. Archambault, to approve the December 14, 2009, Transportation Coordinating Committee meeting minutes. Motion carried.

2. Discussion of the status of a Regional Transit Authority (RTA) and the RTA postcard project.

C. Runge stated that on March 9, 2010, a forum regarding Transportation Choices will be held at the Kress Library in De Pere. RTA enabling legislation will be discussed.

C. Runge stated that on March 11, 2010, the Wisconsin Assembly's Committee on Transportation is holding a public hearing on Assembly Bill (AB 734) relating to the creation of a Fox Cities Regional Transit Authority. The bill is sponsored by

Representatives Bernard-Schaber, Nelson, Hintz, Barca, Berceau, Black, Smith and Turner and cosponsored by Senator Ellis. The Green Bay area is not included in the bill. It is anticipated that at least three Green Bay area residents will testify at the public hearing on the need for enabling legislation.

B. Sauer, President of the Green Bay Transit Alliance (rider's advocacy group), stated that an alliance member plans to testify at the hearing.

C. Runge stated at the last TCC meeting, committee members agreed that the development of a postcard in the shape of a bus or a postcard with an image of a bus could be developed and distributed to those who use or benefit from services. An area on the postcard would be reserved for handwritten comments. The intent of the postcard is to relay personal messages to the area's state senators and assembly representatives.

C. Runge stated that Brown County Planning Commission (BCPC) and Metro staff developed a postcard and it has been distributed throughout the area. The completed postcards are being returned to Metro and will be submitted to the area's state senators and assembly representatives. A copy of the postcard is as follows:

Postcard – front and reverse



C. Runge thanked S. Archambault for suggesting the postcard concept.

C. Runge thanked C. Putman and B. Sauer for assisting with the distribution and collection of the postcards.

E. Fels stated that Metro has received over 1,000 completed postcards and indicated that she was scheduled to pick up additional cards from area agencies the next day.

J. Sellen asked who the postcards will go to.

C. Runge stated that they are intended to be seen by state legislators, but specific legislators have not been chosen to receive them.

J. Withbroe asked if there was local opposition to a RTA.

C. Runge stated that many people appear to be reluctant to support the concept of a RTA because of the perception that it raises taxes and/or creates a new tax. C. Runge clarified that under the current proposal (Fox Cities proposal), funding for transit systems would be removed from the property tax bill and would be replaced with a sales tax. This would take a portion of the burden off residents because many non-residents shop in the area.

P. Finder-Stone stated she will see Senator Cowles and Representative Montgomery tomorrow in Madison and will convey the need for a RTA in the Green Bay area.

C. Runge stated he believes that the postcard is one of many initiatives needed to succeed in getting RTA enabling legislation approved.

C. Runge also suggested that leadership by Representative Penny Bernard-Schaber and other Fox Valley area local elected officials has helped their efforts.

C. Runge stated that the enabling legislation will be the easy part. Getting the public to approve a RTA will be more difficult.

S. Archambault asked when the Packers (Stadium District) tax expires.

J. Sellen stated approximately 2014. J. Sellen stated that the Stadium District has authority to extend the tax to approximately 2023.

C. Runge asked the committee if this issue has been discussed among the agencies' boards or committees.

D. Brown stated that she sent a letter on behalf of NEW Curative supporting a RTA.

S. Popp stated Options for Independent Living has expressed support for a RTA in visits with area state senators and assembly members.

S. Archambault and S. Popp requested a one-page fact sheet summarizing the benefits of a RTA.

C. Runge stated that a committee member requested this at the last meeting and asked if anyone received one. After hearing no, C. Runge stated he would look into this.

S. Archambault asked about the time frame for a RTA.

C. Runge stated that the federal loss of operating assistance will not likely impact Metro's budget until 2012. This is likely when the new census numbers will be

available and when funding formulas will be adjusted.

S. Popp stated it is often difficult to keep track of both issues:

- **The “100 Bus Bill”/Transit System Flexibility Act/The Alliance for Transit Operating Assistance** – federal issue
- **RTA Enabling Legislation** – state issue

J. Sellen stated that there are currently several RTA proposals or draft bills under discussion by the legislative committee.

1. Fox Cities Regional Transit Authority enabling legislation proposal.
2. Statewide RTA enabling proposal. This is very similar to many past versions and is not likely to be approved.
3. SE Wisconsin RTA dealing with Kenosha-Racine-Milwaukee (KRM) service.

J. Sellen suggested the postcards be submitted at the public hearing in Madison on March 11.

S. Premo suggested that the “best of” postcards be identified and documented.

L. Conard stated she planned to review the postcards and scan a cross-section of postcards.

C. Putman suggested that another round of postcards be developed stating “I would ride Green Bay Metro if...” which would allow potential riders to participate in the effort.

B. Sauer stated that many riders are not aware of the implications of the census. Of those who do, many take a “sit back and wait” approach.

J. Withbroe, who was a Metro driver for 34 years, agreed with B. Sauer’s assessment.

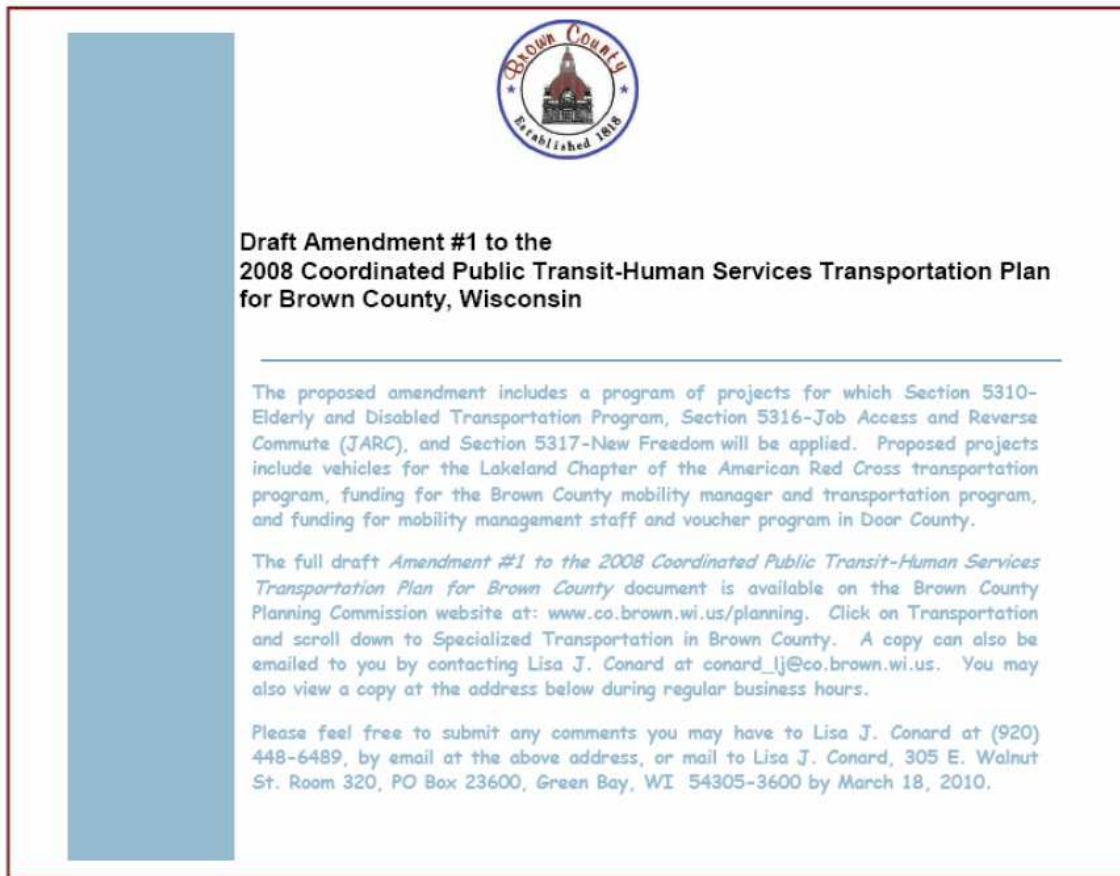
B. Sauer stated the Green Bay Transit Alliance is producing a video that includes passenger testimony on the need for transit services. B. Sauer is hopeful this marketing piece can be shown to elected officials and other stakeholders in the near future.

3. Discussion and action regarding an amendment to Brown County’s Coordinated Public Transit – Human Services Transportation Plan.

L. Conard stated that the plan was completed in 2008. Many of the TCC members participated in the county meeting that was the basis for the plan.

L. Conard stated that although an amendment is not required, staff felt the need to update the document to reflect the actual and anticipated program of projects for 2010 through 2013.

L. Conard stated she submitted the following postcard to interested parties.



L. Conard stated, at the recommendation of WisDOT staff, that broad strategies should be included in the amendment. L. Conard stated staff developed strategies and are as follows:

Proposed Strategies for Plan:

1. Promote coordination between local, state, and federal agencies, customers, and transportation professionals.
2. Expand public transportation services in the Green Bay Urbanized Area.
3. Expand transportation options for all Brown County residents.
4. Continue to support the Lakeland Chapter of the American Red Cross transportation program.
5. Continue with the Brown County Mobility Manager position and the related transportation program.
6. Monitor and update local transportation plans as necessary.

L. Conard stated proposed program of project is as follows:

FY 2010-2013 Program of Projects for Brown County

Projects	FY 2010 Projects	FY 2011 Projects	FY 2012 Projects	FY 2013 Projects
Section 5310 (Capital Assistance Program for the Elderly & Persons with Disability Program)	<u>Lakeland Chapter of the American Red Cross</u> –one minivan with three ambulatory positions & two wheelchair positions at the cost of approximately \$26,000 federal & \$6,000 local.	<u>Lakeland Chapter of the American Red Cross</u> – two small buses with seven ambulatory positions at the cost of approximately \$60,000 federal & \$16,000 local.	<u>Lakeland Chapter of the American Red Cross</u> – one small bus with seven ambulatory positions at the cost of approximately \$30,000 federal & \$8,000 local.	<u>Lakeland Chapter of the American Red Cross</u> – one small bus with seven ambulatory positions & one wheelchair position & one bus with 12 ambulatory & two wheelchair positions at the cost of approximately \$69,000 federal & \$18,000 local.
Section 5316 (WETAP – Wisconsin Employment Transportation Assistance Program which includes JARC - Job Access & Reverse Commute Program)	<u>Forward Service Corporation</u> – Mobility Manager/Transportation Case Worker: The Mobility Manager will work with individuals to solve their transportation problems. Program includes vanpool, no-interest vehicle repair loans, & gas & bus vouchers for low-income workers at the cost of \$48,604 federal only; additional funds applied for to cover all of 2010.	<u>Forward Service Corporation</u> – Mobility Manager/Transportation Case Worker: The Mobility Manager will work with individuals to solve their transportation problems. Program includes vanpool, no-interest vehicle repair loans, & gas & bus vouchers for low-income workers at the cost of approximately \$50,000 federal & \$25,000 local.	<u>Forward Service Corporation</u> – Mobility Manager/Transportation Case Worker: The Mobility Manager will work with individuals to solve their transportation problems. Program includes vanpool, no-interest vehicle repair loans, & gas & bus vouchers for low-income workers at the cost of approximately \$50,000 federal & \$25,000 local.	<u>Forward Service Corporation</u> – Mobility Manager/Transportation Case Worker: The Mobility Manager will work with individuals to solve their transportation problems. Program includes vanpool, no-interest vehicle repair loans, & gas & bus vouchers for low-income workers at the cost of approximately \$75,000 federal & \$35,000 local.
Section 5317 (New Freedom Program)	<u>*United Way of Door County</u> (service may reach Brown County and the Green Bay Urbanized Area) - Mobility management staff & voucher program at the cost of \$86,735 federal & \$42,884 local.	<u>*Door-Tran Inc.</u> (service may reach Brown County and the Green Bay Urbanized Area) - Mobility management staff & voucher program at the cost of \$90,000 federal & \$22,500 local.	<u>*Door-Tran Inc.</u> (service may reach the Brown County and the Green Bay Urbanized Area) - Mobility management staff & voucher program at the cost of \$90,000 federal & \$22,500 local.	<u>*Door-Tran Inc.</u> (service may reach Brown County and the Green Bay Urbanized Area) - Mobility management staff & voucher program at the cost of \$80,000 federal & \$20,000 local.

* Included in the *Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan for Door County, Wisconsin*

L. Conard stated that all projects are consistent with the outlined strategies and consistent with the action plan contained in the document.

S. Maricque asked why the United Way of Door County/Door-Tran projects were included in the Brown County plan.

L. Conard stated that the state requested that the Green Bay MPO include the projects in the Brown County plan. Door County does not contain a MPO. L. Conard stated she coordinated the listing with Pam Bush (Door-Tran Mobility Manager and member of the Door County Transportation Consortium). Pam has informed staff that service under the program will reach Brown County and the Green Bay Urbanized Area.

S. Maricque confirmed that Door County residents use the program to reach VA service and other medical appointments in the Green Bay area.

A motion was made by S. Popp, seconded by J. Withbroe, to endorse the proposed strategies and the 2010-2013 Program of Projects as presented. Motion carried.

4. Other matters.

S Popp asked S. Rosenbaum if Medi-Van dispatchers are told to tell callers that it is difficult to schedule trips from 1:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. on weekdays.

S. Rosenbaum stated no. Medi-Van staff, under ADA provisions, is allowed to negotiate a trip pick-up time within one hour of the request. S. Rosenbaum and S. Popp agreed that the peak trip request time is between 3:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.

S. Premo passed out a copy of the WPS Volunteer Awards application and encouraged committee members to consider nominating a volunteer that works within their respective organization.

C. Runge set the next meeting of the TCC for:

Monday, June 14, 2010
Green Bay Metro Transportation Center
901 University Avenue
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9:45 a.m.

5. Adjourn.

C. Runge closed the meeting at 10:34 a.m.